

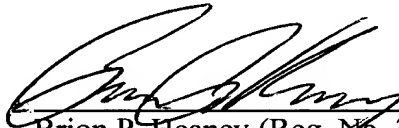
REMARKS

In the Communication of January 19, 2000, the Examiner indicated that the amendments in the prior Amendment filed October 27, 1999, were not entered because of lack of correlation with the pending claims. Applicants' were given one month to correct the situation. The present Amendment renders moot the problem by canceling all of the claims that the PTO considers pending and substituting new claims 10-39. All of applicants' remarks in the October 27, 1999 Amendment are hereby incorporated into the instant Amendment; reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the July 27, 1999 Office Action is again respectfully requested.

Contrary to the comments in the Communication claims 1-9 were **not** submitted for prosecution. Instead, as stated in the prior Amendment, the application was filed with original claims **1-15**. No claims prior to the October 27, 1999 Amendment had been canceled. Thus, there was no need to ask that claims 13-15 be added in the September 22, 1998 Preliminary Amendment since claims 13-15 were already in the application.

The claims 1-9 referred to in the Communication were submitted as an attachment to the LETTER filed July 28, 1998. In this LETTER applicants merely provided an English translation of amended page 10 that was attached as an annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report. That page 10 contained claims 1-9. However, that LETTER also expressly requested **that the examination be based on the original PCT application as filed**, not based on amended page 10 which only presented claims 1-9. That these claims 1-9 were not intended to be the claims examined is further evidence by the amendments presented in the Preliminary Amendment, which amended **original** claims 3-9, not claims 3-9 of PCT amended page 10 attached to the LETTER of July 28, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Brion P. Heaney (Reg. No. 32,542)
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza I
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Direct Dial: (703) 812-5308
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410
Internet Address: heaney@mwzb.com

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